

Romania's accession to the European Union is the top priority objective for Romania. Becoming member of the European Union on the 1st of January 2007 will confirm the fact that Romania is irreversibly connected to the values of European democracy and the principles of functioning market economy and thus it fulfils the accession criteria set by the Union.

Romania closed in December 2004 the accession negotiations to the European Union, on the basis of which the European Council of 16-17 December 2004 reconfirmed the date of 1st January 2007 as the accession date of Romania to the EU.

Romania signed in Luxemburg, on 25th April 2005, together with Bulgaria and the representatives of the 25 Member States the Treaty of Accession to the EU. The signing of the Accession Treaty was preceded by the assent of the European Parliament, which was given on 13th April 2005, with an absolute majority of the MEPs' votes. Up to the present moment, the Treaty was ratified by Slovakia (June 21, 2005), Hungary (September 26, 2005), Slovenia (September 29, 2005), Republic of Cyprus (October 27, 2005), Greece (November 2, 2005), Estonia (November 16, 2005) and Czech Republic (December 6, 2005), Spain (December 14, 2005), Italy (December 22, 2005), Malta (January 24, 2006), Latvia (January 26, 2006), Portugal (March 8, 2006).

On the 25th of October 2005, the European Commission presented the Comprehensive Monitoring Report on Romania. The Report acknowledges the progress made by Romania in the accession process to the EU, as well as the fields in which additional measures are needed for attaining the accession objective.

The monitoring process of the Commission continues until the moment of effective accession to the EU, on the basis of the instruments used in the case of the first ten countries which joined the Union in 2004: early warning letters, peer/review missions, consultation on specific fields. The next monitoring report of the Commission, before the accession on 1st January 2007, is expected to be published on the 17th of May 2006.

Immediately after signing the Accession Treaty, Romania began participating as an observer in the activities of the Union, being associated with the works of all Community bodies, both at political and at technical level (EU Council and its configurations, working groups of the Council, as well as the European Council.) At the same time, 35 Romanian Members of the Parliament started on the 26th of September 2005 their observership in the activity of the European Parliament.

Currently, Romania has a substantial contribution to the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, not only by its association and implicit support for the Union's positions and common statements, but also by the involvement in the European military and police missions and by sharing, through various relations, its experience in the foreign policy area.

Since at the moment of accession, Romania's Northern and Eastern frontier will become the external EU borders, Romania prepares itself to contribute to the consolidation of the area of liberty, security and justice, by ensuring an efficient management of its external borders.

Useful Links

- European Union On-Line - <http://europa.eu.int/>
- Portal "Your Europe" - <http://europa.eu.int/youreurope/>
- Information Centre of the European Commission in Romania - <http://www.infoeuropa.ro/>
- Mission of Romania to the European Union - <http://www.roumisue.org/>
- Romanian Ministry of European Integration - <http://www.mie.ro/>
- Romanian Information Center in Brussels - <http://www.roinfocentre.be>
- European Institute of Romania - <http://www.ier.ro/>
- Presidency of the European Union - <http://www.eu2006.at/>
- EUObserver - <http://www.euobserver.com>
- EurActiv - <http://www.euractiv.com/>